

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-12 are pending. Claims 2 and 8 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 30, 2002.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §10s(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. (U.S. 5,285,189);

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §10s(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. in view of Bankart et al. (U.S. 6,609,419);

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §10s(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. in view of McClelland (U.S. 5,963,128);

Claims 7, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland; and

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland in view of Bankart et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended herein to recite combinations of elements directed to a tire air pressure detecting device for monitoring a tire air pressure, including tire air pressure detecting means on the wheel for detecting the tire air pressure, the tire air pressure detecting means having a detector body and a tire valve mounted on the detector body, the tire valve being an air valve for connecting to an air pump.

The examiner will note that independent claims 1 and 8, now include *inter alia* the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 8, respectively, claims 2 and 8 now being cancelled.

Support for tire air pressure detecting means 41 on the wheel for detecting the tire air pressure, the tire air pressure detecting means 41 having a detector body 51 and a tire valve 52 mounted on the detector body 51, the tire valve 52 being an air valve 52, can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0030], and in FIGS. 2 and 3.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 7 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nowicki et al., McClelland, and Bankart et al.

The Examiner (page 3 of the Office Action) states that Bankart et al. teach a tire pressure sensor comprising a detector body with valve 1.

However, the Applicants respectfully submit that Bankart et al. element 1 is merely a sensor module connected by a wire 36 to a relay module 4; thus Bankart et al. fail to teach tire air pressure detecting means on the wheel for detecting the tire air pressure, the tire air pressure detecting means having a detector body and a tire valve mounted on the detector body 51, the tire valve being an air valve for connecting to an air pump, as set forth in the present invention.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Bankart et al. cannot make up for the deficiencies of either Nowicki et al., or McClelland. Thus Bankart et al. cannot be combined with either of Nowicki et al. or McClelland to reject independent claims 1 and 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 and 7 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nowicki et al, McClelland, or Bankart et al., at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are in condition for allowance. Further, the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

*Application No. 10/058,278
Amendment dated January 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 20003*

*Docket No. 0505-0935P
Art Unit:2636
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CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

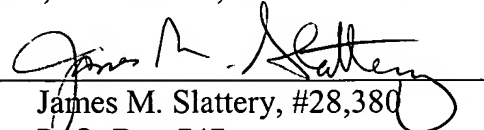
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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